



State of Illinois

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1) ~~Went~~ 2) ~~Maister~~ 3) ~~Barrard~~ 10/16/96
FEE 10/24

Mary A. Gade, Director

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9276

217/785-5735

RECEIVED

OCT 24 1996

October 16, 1996

U. S. EPA REGION 5
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Barbara B. Wells
Senior Policy Analyst
Natural Resources Policy Studies Division
National Governors' Association
Hall of the States
444 North Capital Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

Dear Ms. Wells:

I am writing this letter to convey my concern about your letter of September 16, 1996 to Jon Kessler. In that letter, you stated that "...state officials have had scant opportunity to communicate their views to the high-level EPA officials..." and that "...It is our hope that this letter will open a dialogue between EPA and the states...". In this regard, you should be advised that top management at EPA have agreed to meet with a group of environmental commissioners to discuss problems with the XL program. This commitment was made by Carol Browner at the ECOS annual meeting during the first week in September. In fact, a meeting has been scheduled for the end of this month, and Mary Gade, from Illinois EPA, will be participating in this discussion session. As far as I am concerned, this session marks the beginning of the dialogue process you mentioned. You should also be aware, if you have not heard about it yet, that ECOS established a workgroup to find better ways of handling XL projects.

Your letter goes on to describe certain concerns and to make some suggestions on behalf of state participants in Project XL. Without speaking to the merits of these points, I want to clarify for the record that your letter does not necessarily represent the views of the Illinois EPA. Furthermore, we did not participate in any conference calls or surveys that took place to generate the comments you submitted to EPA. Unfortunately, your listing of me as a "cc" in your letter could create the mistaken impression that Illinois helped develop and supports the comments.

As you will recall, I declined to participate in your XL group when you invited us to join this activity. Since that time, I have not participated in any of your conference calls or any of your meetings to discuss the XL program. You appear, however, to continue acting as if Illinois was a player in your group. The plain truth is that I had no interest in being involved with your XL group and still don't want any involvement. As I've mentioned before, any interaction that is needed with other states that have XL projects can be readily

608779